

Dear Governor Malloy, Representative Guerrera, Senator Maynard, Senator Boucher,

As a small business owner and 20+ year resident of Great Barrington, Massachusetts, I am writing to ask you to support the establishment of passenger rail service in Western Connecticut.

In my experience, both Litchfield and Berkshire counties suffer from a decreasing and aging population, and a commensurate loss of commercial activity. I am convinced, through personal observation, first-hand conversations with my Connecticut-resident staff and customers, and extensive reading on the subject, that passenger rail service will not only bring more convenience and economic benefits to our existing population, but that it will bring significant numbers of younger, more mobile and more well-off visitors to our region. In my experience, as a former visitor myself, many of these folks will end up staying for extended vacations, and then will purchase second and first homes.

I truly believe this is the best economic development opportunity for this region in our generation, and I strongly urge you to fund and support its rapid development.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Robert Navarino
President
The Chef's Shop
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